

**NPR-A
Integrated Activity Plan
Environmental Impact Statement**

Scoping Meeting

Atqasuk

1997

NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement
Public Scoping Meeting
Atkasuk, Alaska
Tuesday, March 18, 1997
7:30 p.m.

(Tape 1)

(Note to Reader: Tape begins after welcoming statements by North Slope Borough Mayor Ben Nageak and introduction of Dee Ritchie by Atkasuk Mayor Herman Kignak. This meeting was translated into Inupiat by Jana Harcharek of Barrow. The Inupiat translations are not included in these transcripts.)

DEE RITCHIE - BLM NORTHERN DISTRICT MANAGER: Thank you Mayor, well my name is Dee Ritchie and Jana Harcharek is going to translate for us tonight and I hope that both these mayors, at least Mayor Nageak, said the same thing to you tonight that he said last night. Mayor Herman, thank you for having us to your village. When I came in today, he said, well what are you doing in my village? And I said Mayor, you invited us here. We're grateful to be here, thank you very much. We're grateful to have this meeting in your community this evening and we appreciate the hospitality and the chance to meet with you good people who live here and those from Barrow who are with us also. This is an important project that we've undertaken, and the decisions that are made in this process after it's completed will be very important to you and your families on the north slope, so thank you for being part of this process tonight. We hope this will be a positive experience for everyone and we know that we really can't complete without, and do a good job on both a plan, a resource kind of a plan and an environmental impact statement without your help. And we recognize that many of you know this land and its resources better than anyone and so we appreciate very much hearing from you about that tonight. We're hoping in this session tonight that you'll share with us your knowledge, both the scientific and traditional knowledge, and we want to make sure that we consider every issue of concern in our day to day life, your day to day life and how it might affect the use of the land and the resources, the animals and the future. I want to tell you up front here that there's been no decisions made about the management of this land or its use or the oil and gas resources there. And the recommendations will depend on what you tell us and your help in assembling and putting things together during this process. And we want you and the other people of the North Slope to be a partner in this process and in the management in the future. We respect you and the knowledge and your expertise and I've had the opportunity to work for many years with many people of this borough and the villages here and I have a fond respect for them and friendship and I want that to continue throughout this process. Our staff is here tonight, we'd kinda like to consider this, it might be featured as a scoping session but we call it a listening session for us and it'll help us and help our staff write the environmental impact

statement and an integrated activity plan. We're going to cover about, in this plan about 4.6 million acres in the northeast portion of the National Petroleum Reserve. And as I said before we're glad to be here and to meet with you and we'll be available for any and more meetings should you like, both formal and informal meetings and we'll be back after some of these things are put together to see if what we heard tonight is in the plan over the next year and a half at least and so we appreciate again, Mayor, for being here and for being on the North Slope, Mayor Ben. Now let me introduce our staff to you that are here tonight, Curtis Wilson from Anchorage, Curtis is the lead planner in this process. Dave Yokel is from our Fairbanks office, our lead wildlife biologist, he's spent some time in your community a couple years ago and spent a lot of time on the North Slope. We appreciate him being here with us. Ray Emerson will be in charge of the analysts and environmental impact statement and writing and analyzing the material he's spent a lot of time reading and working, Ray comes to us from the Minerals Management Service and brought his team, his EIS team into this process, we're grateful to him and them for that process. Sharon Wilson is our public relations specialist from our Fairbanks office and is helping record this meeting along with the Mayor and does a lot of contact work for us in many other ways. We also have, and we're gonna claim them also, Arnold Brower, who's been introduced to you representing the Mayor's office, and Tom Lohman, who now says that he's an environmental resource specialist, he's really an attorney (laughter) and we've really had a great association over the many years with Tom and so it's fun to be here, and I'm glad to be working with such giants, in my opinion, both friends and specialists in this kind of work. And last but not least I'd like to introduce Anne Morkill who is our meeting coordinator tonight and facilitator and she'll give us some instructions in a little bit. I'm going to take my seat back with, in the back of the room with the Mayor and I hope we can have a good meeting here, and thank you very much for having us.

MAYOR HERMAN KIGNAK: We forgot to introduce Jana Harchareck who will be translating. I'm sorry Jana.

RITCHIE: I am too Jana, I thought he introduced you before but.....

JANA HARCHAREK: No big deal. (laughter)

ANNE MORKILL - BLM: We also have a few other people with us, Duncan Adams from the Arctic Sounder and we have our 2 pilots from Cape Smythe sitting in the back, in case you're wondering who our other visitors are. To start off tonight we're gonna invite Curt Wilson to give you a brief overview of the planning process, and then as Dee mentioned, our purpose here tonight is to listen to you, to listen to your concerns and answer your questions and share information on your use of the area and what resources are out in the northeast part of the planning area that we need to consider in our plan, and we would like to invite you to provide your comments and ask those questions. And we are recording them, both the Mayor and Sharon Wilson and we will be transcribing those tapes. I also use the flip chart here to record key points and that's just for us to make sure that we've understood what you have presented to us and we can use that as a discussion and a dialog.

CURTIS WILSON - BLM: It's good to be here, the last time I was here was 22 years ago and your town has changed a lot since then. Very impressive, that. I don't want to take much time since mostly we're here to listen to you but I did want to say a couple of things, if you have any questions about the planning process itself please feel free to ask and then we'll see if we can give you some answers. I don't want to go through the details of it because it's boring to most people who don't do planning but I did want to remind you that although we're all aware of this we know that we're talking about a possible oil and gas

leasing as one of the things that are going to come out of this plan, we BLM are going to be considering all of the resources that we're responsible for managing here and we're trying to come up with some management actions and some ideas for how we might manage the land whether we do oil and gas leasing or not, so if you have comments about lands related issued or historic and archeological sights, anything like that, please feel free to mention those when you make your comments. Thank you.

MORKILL: Before we start to invite comments I just want to explain that after tonight's meeting we also will be meeting in Anchorage and Fairbanks and Nuiqsut and the formal scoping period ends on April 4th and at that time all written comments are supposed to be submitted to the Bureau of Land Management. But we want to emphasize that that's not your last opportunity to provide input into the plan. Arnold Brower and Tom Lohman are, the reason we have them work with us at the Bureau of Land Management is to represent the Borough and to be a channel for you to continue to express your concerns all the way through this process. Over the next several months we're going to be taking the issues and concerns that you have brought up and we heard in Barrow and we'll hear at other meetings and that we'll receive in writing from organizations and use those to develop our integrated activity plan which will help us manage this northeast corner of the National Petroleum Reserve in the future. And then we will be coming back to these communities next fall in November and ask again for your comments and your questions on that draft plan so we will be back again and we hope to have additional meetings and Tom and Arnold will be available for you to continue to provide us information. Does anybody have any questions of any of our specialists?

WILSON: Questions or comments.

MORKILL: I thought we'd start with questions. Herman, we'd like to invite you if you'd like to make a statement or if you have any questions or comments...

MAYOR HERMAN KIGNAK - ATQASUK: No, not at this time. I would want to give it to the public, I have been to one meeting when you had the first one in Barrow. Thank you.

MORKILL: I guess we'd like to open it up to you and a question we'd like to ask is, if you were managing the National Petroleum Reserve, how would you like to consider the issues there, how would you manage for it, what would you like the area to look like in the coming years? Anybody have any comments they'd like to present?

TOM LOHMAN - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: Arnold and I have a couple of things we want to say to start out with and I'm going to let Arnold go first.

ARNOLD BROWER JR. - NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH: (Began speaking in Inupiat) Just was making a verbal recap of what people said yesterday and outlined the description for this, the exact description of the property here involved and the specific concerns on the snow goose and the migration of the caribou that could be blocked and those particular things that we did mention yesterday. And one

exception that I made is that I did get a call from a man from Nuiqsut who'd experienced some things relating to the development in this area that are preventing them from, for example by Upulatook they cannot bring their guns in because of the 25 mile buffer zone in the industrial site, so those are the things that we have to be mindful how it's going to affect anything's gonna happen at all.

(End of tape 1 - side 1)

(Begin tape 1 - side 2)

LOHMAN:I think all of the written statements that were delivered last night at the hearing in Barrow by Mayor Nageak, we'll make that available to you, as you've been told the comment deadline is April 4th, which is coming up pretty darn quick. We thought it useful for you folks to have the written comments that were submitted by the City Mayor, the Borough Mayor, and various other folks including my department, the Department of Wildlife Management. Taqulik Opie has just 8 or 10 more copies that she can hand out to you now. Those will help you to sort of see what went on last night. For those of you who listened to the radio I think, unfortunately, many of you may have missed some of the best stuff that took place which was testimony by Warren Matumeak and Noah Itta late in the evening, but I think we heard a lot of good comments and some requests from the Borough. The reason Arnold and I are involved is because the Mayor has asked us to get involved in response to a request from BLM to be part of the process, which is wonderful that we're able to sit at the table along with the people who are developing this document. In order for us to do our jobs we need to get as much information out of you folks as we can. As you heard from Anne and from Dee, we're talking about a planning process for the northeast part of NPR-A. We want to know what you want to occur there, what you don't want to occur there, what places are important to you, what places are important to wildlife in the area. I guess I'll let Jana go before she takes my head off. Just a last thing again, we need to hear tonight and by written comment deadline are very specific comments from the community about what areas are important to subsistence harvest or to wildlife, again on the sheet that Taqulik handed out there are a bunch of questions and some of them deal with things like what mitigating measures would you like to see attached to any oil activity, that means what conditions do you think ought to be placed on any activity that takes place, if you think it should take place only in the winter time, not in the winter time, it should take place in certain areas at certain times. That kind of information is what they're looking for and what we're looking for in order to support your concerns. We'll be working with you before the comment deadline, the Borough's going to be submitting very extensive written comments that Arnold's going to be helping to coordinate, we're also going to be submitting maps, I know that Karen's department, you see these maps here, we'd like to fill them out, if you can add any information to them Karen's folks will help you do that. And we want this process to be as meaningful as it can be and then after scoping is closed Arnold and I will be your contact to allow additional information to get to BLM so the 4th is

the opportunity to submit written comments, after that you can contact us and we can get your comments into the process. That's all, thanks Jana.

MAYOR KIGNAK: I have one question, that area that you are talking about, we are not only talking about an area, we are talking about the whole NPR-A, right?

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: O.K. I think that in that sense you can talk about the area from activity how it might impact this side as well.

MAYOR KIGNAK: Yeah, the NPR-A area is Barrow, Atqasuk and Wainwright too, I believe. That's that area we are talking about right?

MORKILL: The integrated activity plan and environmental impact statement is limited to the 4.6 million acre planning area, but we recognize that your subsistence use areas, your travel corridors cross those boundaries no matter where we put the line on the map. The caribou move across these boundaries, the waterfowl, and so we welcome any comments that you have that are inside that area or outside, we would like to recognize those concerns of yours. We have recognized that BLM continues to have management responsibility over the entire National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, so, we right now are focusing our planning effort on that corner, but any comments you can provide will be helpful.

LUKE KAGAK - ATQASUK: What are we to do if animals that migrate through the area, if they are to stop migrating through the area?

MORKILL: Is your concern that activities in this area would stop the animals from migrating through?

LUKE KAGAK: Like for instance some ducks that have been migrating back and forth in the Prudhoe Bay area up here are almost gone. That we know like eider ducks, they aren't there anymore, they don't stop by here anymore like they used to.

MORKILL: Well that's some of the information that we'd like to gather from the local residents, if you've had those observations and then working with the Borough Wildlife Department, if they have some ideas on how we might avoid that type of impact, that's what we'd like to incorporate into the integrated activity plan. It's an issue.

THOMAS BROWER, JR. - ATQASUK: Why aren't all the creeks and rivers on the map, because I know of a lot of creeks and rivers that aren't on the map that have a lot of fish. Even on those and in here.

LOHMAN: Let him show us and we'll put them on.....

THOMAS BROWER, JR.: There's a place called *Dubbelick* that's not on the map

that I know for a fact to be a very good resource for fish, there is also near Teshekpuk there is also a place called *Upulatook* near Nuiqsut where there is a creek that has a lot of fish and not including these on the map is detrimental. There are also some streams to the east of Nuiqsut that are also not on the map. I have gone how many times to Inigok where there was some drilling that took place, and I have seen bones from birds that have been killed from the, from after they drill a hole, the stuff they leave behind, the fluids. I don't want to see that kind of thing happening where we see our wildlife and waterfowl dying from contaminants being left after having conducted drilling activity, I don't want to see that kind of thing. And leaving an area without having done some kind of thing to put it back into the shape it was before the drilling took place.

JAMES AIKEN, SR. - ATAQSUK: There is a chemical, the substance that is used when you're drilling to make the hole, is poisonous to animals and then after crude oil has been extracted there are left over after drilling has taken place there's left over material, left over that also contaminates birds and or waterfowl and other animals and it's this substance that is used in the drilling process that is the substance that is poisonous.

LOHMAN: Did we ever for the purposes, benefit of the BLM folks did we ever answer Tom's question about how we're going to get these rivers and creeks and streams on the maps?

MORKILL: No, we didn't get a chance.

LOHMAN: Can we maybe answer that, what's the best way, we've got the Borough folks here who could help. Any ideas? I don't want to leave him hanging.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: What was the question again?

LOHMAN: He says there are important rivers and streams and creeks that are not on these maps and we have the people here who can solve that problem.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: I think there's some detailed maps at GIS that you can use.

LOHMAN: Can we send those to him to make sure he's happy with those.

KAREN BURNELL - NSB WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT: We can do that we can send...

(conversation of unidentified voices in Inupiat.)

JANA HARCHAREK: Well, what was discussed was that in reference to addressing the problem of traditional hunting areas or fishing areas and other things that don't

appear on the maps, the process that was discussed is that maps will be made available through Herman's office and people who have information that may be missing from the maps can work with Herman to get those places that were omitted on the maps, included on the maps and Arnold explained that there's information at IHLC concerning traditional use areas, hunting areas, fishing and other archeological sites, historic areas, that if folks just say place names that IHLC should have the information as to where these places are and if for purposes of facilitating the session here tonight if place names are used then we can go back to the tape and have IHLC locate them on a map.

BURNELL: Can I add to that, he's also expressing his dissatisfaction with the maps that are up in front because they don't show creeks that might be of concern, creeks and rivers. He feels that maybe in the future maps should be used that show the rivers and the creeks that contain fish that they may be concerned about.

LOHMAN: The bottom line is we'll get whatever we need to get on the map for the planning process.

MAYOR KIGNAK: I just want to qualify these peoples statements, like Tom Brower. Here I have probably some of the most extensive use even before my childhood in the area and they can tell me the species of fish in each of the small lakes around the part that we're discussing, and the lack of information and topography of the map is disturbing to him and I can understand that. Because Tom Brower, Jr. for example has been a reindeer herder in the '40s, we have very knowledgeable persons here in Atqasuk that have utilized this land and have very much knowledge of historical information that they have run across physically throughout the land. (Began speaking in Inupiat....)

(End of tape 1 - side 2)
(Begin tape 2 side 1)

RITCHIE: Let me make one comment about graphics, those maps up there, I can appreciate what was said there because there's just the outline and the section lines perhaps. It doesn't relate to the land very well yet and that's been one of the frustrations we've had in trying to map this north country. Just in the last few years there's been some really great break throughs. David Yokel has been working on a project with satellite images that photograph the ground as it is. The USGS quadrangles even some of them were not accurate, we appreciate that fact and appreciate the comment very much.

RAYNITA "TAQULIK" OPIE - NSB WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: To add to the map thing we have Devin, he's working with our department, he's been working with the hunters and he does the interviews to record the harvest locations. And he brought some of that work to Barrow and it looked really good, but we asked him to come

back and to go back and review some of those areas with you guys to make sure that they're well documented so we could probably use some of that information in the draft EIS to show their hunting areas, well Devin's been working on that.

MORKILL: Herman, you raised your hand earlier, did you want to say something?

MAYOR KIGNAK: No.

HARCHAREK: I have a specific question relating to allotments, I know there's a number of them out there and are you looking for comments from allotment holders, cause if we were looking at the whole NPR-A there'd be a lot of allotments with maybe some people here who have allotments not just within that area but within NPR-A. How will allotment holders be treated in the event that after this process is complete, there's a go ahead given to oil and gas leasing and there's a decision made that involves allotment holders? Not just within this area but within the whole NPR-A because eventually I think we're looking at all of NPR-A.

MORKILL: Curt or Dee, did you want to address this, Dave....

DAVE YOKEL - BLM: I can try to address that but correct me if I'm wrong Dee, the allotment issue we're gonna hope to settle long before anything happens in this planning area as a result of this plan. By that time all the allotment holders then will be private property owners and they will be treated as private property owners, that property will be theirs and no one will be allowed to trespass on that property without their permission.

MAYOR NAGEAK: You can, you are expecting to do that in 18 months, within that planning, that unresolved allotments, is that what they're talking about?

YOKEL: I'm not sure of the exact time line for completing the allotment certification but 18 months is only the time line for developing this plan, that doesn't mean 18 months from now there'll be activities immediately taking place on the land. Before any activities can take place we have to establish exactly where those allotments are and complete the process of certifying those...that's not my specialty so I don't know all the correct terms...

MAYOR NAGEAK: Is that including unresolved Native allotments or I don't know what you call it....

RITCHIE: Yes it does and we really need to concentrate on that in the next few years. There probably won't be any development in that area or on the NPR-A for 3 to 5 years. And I hope we can get that done by then, Mayor. I think this is a good opportunity to try and put some emphasis on the Native allotment and get your help in settling some of the (inaudible)...

BURNELL: (Began speaking in Inupiat) What I just said was seismic activities crossing, this is gonna be hard, there was a question on crossing Native allotment and I just informed the residents that we do try through the permitting process to keep track of any activities that may occur that may have to cross Native allotments and that we have stipulations in our permits that require the contractor that's doing the seismic activity or any kind of development to contact the, you know these are known not pending but known definite allotments, that they need to contact the owners of those allotments for permission to cross or maybe possible discussions on compensations for using the individual's allotment, that those stipulations and provisions are within the planning department should be followed and if they find that allotments have been crossed without their knowledge, without their permission, that we would like to know about it.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Earlier as we mentioned there was specific questions that would be related to this study or activity, how would we want to manage it. Well if I was from Atqasuk I would tell you that you find natural gas here first and do the rest of it and then so that you have these lingering problems in these remote villages that you overlook the real problem and try to meet the concerns of our nation and when we give you the blessing, the village is still overlooked and their still left with this humongous energy crisis.

MORKILL: So Atqasuk would like a natural gas pipeline.

UNKNOWN: We agree with you Arnold, that's what we want a natural gas.

MORKILL: I just want to see if people would be interested in taking a break for about 5 to 10 minutes. We have some snacks, you can get up and stretch and we don't want you to go home, we want you to stay here for our meeting.

(BREAK)

MORKILL: Does anyone want to speak about your concerns or experiences within the area?

LUKE KAGAK: On some seismic's, we happened down south of Wainwright, we happened to find some dead caribou and dead fish. Can they avoid like from the edge of the ocean and the land at least 10, 15, 20 miles away from where they lay eggs? Can they do that?

OPIE: We were talking about special management zones for certain critical areas for wildlife resources so we'll look at those critical areas for the wildlife resources to come up with some kind of protection to protect those areas.

YOKEL: Well, I want to make sure I got what Luke said, he said that development should avoid 10 to 15 miles from the coastline? Is that what you said?

MAYOR NAGEAK: No, from the critical nesting and calving areas.

YOKEL: Oh, O.K.

MAYOR NAGEAK: I was talking outside with some people and it was mentioned that BLM should consider having programs in each village in addition to Tom and Arnold working with BLM in the villages which would be impacted in this process, namely Nuiqsut, Barrow, Atkasuk, and Wainwright, that's what they said, whether, you know during the process because they need to have somebody in their village to work with the Borough and BLM to get the message out to the people.

MORKILL: Dee, do you want to address that?

RITCHIE: How about O.K.? (laughter)

MAYOR NAGEAK: Thank you.

MORKILL: And you tell us who, so you can give us the names.

WILSON: And they might be talking about a paid position too.

MORKILL: Yeah. I had a question before I let you, you spoke about seismic activity, was it south of Wainwright? Was that right?

KAGAK: Yeah, that happens, I don't know, I forget, but we did find some dead caribou and fish.

MORKILL: And that was an area where they had been doing seismic work? How long ago was that?

KAGAK: Another one here on Native allotment here, I'd like to make people get their statements black and white because on their BLM site I just had an application stating that you got to answer this question within 30 days, otherwise you lose your Native allotment and I'd like to make sure the people who have allotments state it right and the signature is right for that. You know, people who have Native allotments, cause that happened to me before not too long ago and I had to fight you know legal service and BLM, they work together cause they're under Alaska.

MORKILL: So there are some paperwork that's required and they made a mistake and....

KAGAK: Well everybody got to know, I had to get an attorney or something to fight for my allotment.

MORKILL: So we need to make sure that the paper work is correct and all the dates and names are correct.

DEVIN BATES - NSB WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: I just have a concern that I want to address to the BLM because they're, I know that that (in audible) mentioned this last night but I think April 4th is a pretty ludicrous date to finish this all by and that me and Taqulik and some of the other wildlife people in Barrow tried to outline the most intense use areas for the villages both Barrow and Atqasuk but we need to, a lot of that's guess work and we need to go around and talk to the people here and that we might not, I know we won't be able to finish that by April 4th, and that's something that really needs to be taken into account and I just want the, I think that I'd like to say that for the record.

OPIE : I'd like to add to that too, since the scoping meeting is scheduled in Nuiqsut on April the 3rd and that puts a little bit more stress on us too, because we have no one hired in Nuiqsut so we've be working with them over the phone and through faxes but having that April 4th deadline and not being able to absorb what we can at that community during the scoping meeting and then try to write something you know try to come up with some conclusions in one day is too much to ask.

MORKILL: The important thing about why we're here tonight and we'll be in the other communities and we have that deadline which we recognize is very short, not only for the local residents but for us as well, but if that is to identify any issues that you have about these areas. If there's additional information that would be useful in the environmental impact statement, I think we've got time in addition to that April 4th deadline to work through Tom and Arnold, so we don't want to say that after April 4th we don't want to talk with anybody and we won't receive any information, we want to make sure that's clear that we'll continue to accept particularly resource data. So if that gives you a little room, we're still looking at a tight deadline, I mean by the 1st of May, 2nd of May, we would like to have the environmental consequences or the environmental impacts analyzed by Ray Emerson's staff, so it's a little bit longer but it's not much, but continue to work with Tom and Arnold and provide that information. In November we'll have a draft document environmental impact statement that will go back out to the public for you to look at and review and if there is anything missing in there or that we haven't addressed we still have an opportunity to change that draft and update it with additional information. There'll be public hearings on the draft and at that time you can provide that additional information.

(End tape 2 - side 1)

(Tape 2 - side 2 was Blank)

(Begin tape 3 - side 1)

DAVID SUMMOND: I have an allotment out there at Ikpikpuk, I have land there and it won't be right if I'm not able to take my guns with me for purposes of hunting if the situation should occur that is the same out at the Prudhoe area that Arnold, Jr. was referring to earlier.

MORKILL: What is the size of the zone around the Alpine field, did somebody say that earlier, is that 25 miles? Were you're not allowed to carry your guns?

MAYOR NAGEAK: The one in the conservation districts that are done in Prudhoe Bay, there were a couple that were mentioned that had that kind of buffer zone. He didn't specifically say Alpine but he anticipates that if the pipeline is to go there they will probably want some kind of a buffer zone again. It's 5 miles on the haul road on the corridor right?

YOKEL: Well that's along the pipeline, that's for different purposes. That's for a different purpose near the pipeline, that's actually to protect the wildlife populations from people coming up from the south.

MAYOR NAGEAK: And it applies to the local people too?

YOKEL: No.

MAYOR NAGEAK: Dave, can you be more specific, we can't hear you out here.

YOKEL: The 5 mile fire arm restriction along the Dalton Highway north of the Yukon river applies only to nonlocal residents and it is placed there not to protect the pipeline but to protect the wildlife populations. The potential number of hunters that could come into that could come into there now that the road, since the road was built in '75.

MAYOR NAGEAK: Well it's always been a problem, when I was on the Board of Game, they were always skirting it by shooting animals close to the pipeline and then moving them 5 miles on the other side. I mean, you know, that could happen, I've heard that time and again. Bow and arrows.

YOKEL: Several years ago the Federal Subsistence Board changed that for local borough residents so that firearms are now legal there.

OPIE: Would there be a way to include into the draft EIS where you could exempt, you know, subsistence hunters within some of those different zones...(inaudible)

YOKEL: I think, what I think ought to be done is that we include subsistence

hunters in any discussions, if industry feels that there need to be zones of firearm restrictions for the safety of their personnel around the facilities, then I think the industry and the regulating agencies and the local people that would be affected should work together to describe what those zones would be.

MAYOR NAGEAK: Just alluding to the fact that Don Long and some of the tribal members and tribal council members have discussed this numerous times and tried to get a co-management contract or a co-management agreement with BLM on all the wildlife in the Arctic Slope so that there will be one key administrator, enforcer, so that we will alleviate all of the harassment that is done to subsistence hunters because of other agencies trying to enforce it and trying to find out who we are by taking us to court, by arresting subsistence hunters on various times and I think that the co-management agreement will alleviate and better resolve this problem.

KAGAK: The question is, industry, oil and gas developers in particular have made life rather difficult for us, we have had to go so far as to make accommodations and pay for scientists and other resources persons to document what we've known, to prove what we've known so that we can continue a way of life that we've had for centuries or forever. Why not have industry themselves try to find out what happens too or what's happened to those species who's populations we have seen decline over the years because of impacts that they have done.

MORKILL: I think that you can address this to the impact funds that are generated from development is that a use of those funds at times and request support from the industry....

MAYOR NAGEAK: Well, it's an impact funds I think by law is 50/50 to the state and to the local government, the borough, but then we'll have to go through the state to get that, to get the funding, I mean you know that goes clear up to the state fund(inaudible)....development. And that was announced, I think that's a problem with that is that we have to ask for it from the state, I think it needs to be direct to the borough instead of to the state.

HARCHAREK (for Kagak): I think Luke's point was along the lines of why do we have wind up covering all the costs associated with the documentation of something we've known in terms of the use of the land and the resources to insure that we continue our way of life. Why do we have to prove something we know, I guess is ultimately the very.....

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Well because, I worked for Wildlife Management for, I was director for many years and the reason why we did it was because the federal government and the state wasn't doing anything at that time and so we needed to, for ourselves, for our purposes to prove how important the resources and the lands were with those studies and then the federal and state government it started them

doing more work in the borough in the old days because nobody was doing anything. And then we worked with the oil industry to have them do more of the research with the Endicott project and Prudhoe Bay, that is funded by the oil industry and there's some other projects funded by industry with the cooperation of the state and the commercial board.

RITCHIE: I think what Luke proposed is entirely possible here, you're gonna have just a little bit different funding situation as you come over on the NPR-A as far as impact funds go I think, we're not on state land there and I don't think, I might be wrong there, but I don't think that we have to share that with the state. I think the reason you have to in Prudhoe Bay is because those are some state lands that we're working on over there. Just one other thing, in response to hunting and limitations of that situation, we've noted that concern, but as we get into the mitigating measures, mitigating measures are things that we, I don't really know how to describe mitigating measures except that if the project is going to go on then they have to do something in order to make that happen, well, we have a pretty darn good, I think as a people, have a good in the stipulations if they're going to drill out there, then they're going to do something else and one of the things that I think that we can do as a group is say that the subsistence hunting can go on, and so I don't think that will be a problem as long as we recognize it up front and we plan for that and that everybody understands clearly that can go on. That's a use that has to happen here.

HARCHAREK: Can we have that in writing? (laughter)

RITCHIE: Make sure that's in there, Arnold.

UNKNOWN: Because they would like to use natural gas resource for fuel and heat in their community, I think you said that was number one and then we could review the rest.

MORKILL: I put a star there because of all the applause, that'll be the first comment for Atqasuk.

KIGNAK: How about this hiring of a person in Atqasuk that will work with Arnold and Tom, who's going to be hiring?

MAYOR NAGEAK: He's agreed to that, in fact we we're talking about that outside, so we're going to try and find a mechanism to do that.

KAGAK: Is industry monitored constantly by or hand in hand or by the EPA?

MORKILL: Does somebody want to answer that?

RITCHIE: The answer is the EPA and many others, in what respect Luke, in their drilling and everything?

KAGAK: Yeah.

RITCHIE: The State Department of DEC has primary responsibility for that.

MORKILL: Luke, do you have specific concerns about water quality or air quality?

KAGAK: We're concerned that, Tom Brower, Jr. and others that testified about Endicott for example, is somebody monitoring that for example, or did somebody neglect that so that it was not cleaned up, is that the case?

MAYOR NAGEAK: We're going to be having a problem with the State of Alaska DEC, the state legislature is considering cutting the budget of DEC drastically and they would have to reduce the monitoring of environmental impact activities, so that is a concern, I think Luke has brought out a concern that's real now and it may be more real in the future once the legislature has done their considering doing away with the coastal zone management plan and cutting the budget of DEC and other departments that work in terms of protecting the environment and other things, so that is a concern I think that needs to be addressed within NPR-A if that happens because it is in federal lands and the State DEC will be cutting, are cutting back drastically. It seems like the republican legislature is strong right now and they're getting stronger, you know, the people are seeing just how bad this legislature is in terms of all the things that they have planned.

RITCHIE: I don't have an answer to that right now, except to recognize it and see that it's cared for maybe industry's going to have to carry that load too. Like the fox watching the hen house.

BURNELL: I can add a comment to that, the seismic activity that's going on right now within NPR-A, the crew that's out there right now doing the seismic work, because of comments that were made by Nuiqsut residents based on past experience with this contractor we've been real diligent in trying to keep track of what they're doing. Hitching rides with Search and Rescue when they're doing administrative flies or whatever and there's a seat available we've been getting our inspector to ride along with them so we can check out the activity that's already occurred. We have found a couple of instances where spills had occurred, small spills, but we didn't think they were adequately cleaned up, so we required the company to go back and do a better job. Or there's been debris left behind, we've made them go back and pick it up and since we've started doing that and they know that we're going to be following them around, they've changed drastically in the last couple of weeks. You know, we've put them on notice that we would be watching but they did a couple things anyway, but since they've had to go back and take care

of business it's gotten a lot better.

(End of tape 3 - side 1)

(Begin tape 3 side 2)

HARCHAREK (for Kagak): We need to be thinking of our future and what we leave for our children and their future very seriously as we go through this process and so any thoughts that take into consideration their future on the part of the people here we need to get those out so that they're included in this planning process.

MORKILL: Does anyone want to respond to Luke, that sounds like challenge for people to bring up some new issues.

MAYOR NAGEAK: Well that's something that we endeavor to do in this administration and I know ICAS's doing that too and you know, we will move our young people forward and giving them more information.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Dee, often times the industry will leave abandoned wells that have oil or gas but of noncommercial grade quantity. Do you have authority for those type of findings that if the industry just abandons, when it's abandoned I mean that it's not worth their while. Can they try where the borough can have residual rights to these type of well. I mean 5 hundred thousand barrels of oil in the borough is 50 years of energy, so for example Luke's concern of what are we leaving our children behind is an incentive how can we get this out for ourselves.

RITCHIE: I don't know Arnold, that's an interesting question, there's, you mean after the drilling's finished, perhaps, is that what we're talking about?

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: Commercially liable. If you find oil and gas in that one well, you're not going to put a 300 million dollar pipeline to get 500 hundred thousand barrels out, so definitely the industry is going to leave that and say it's just not worth our while. Can we have residual rights to these type of finds.

RITCHIE: When oil and gas is leased, unless it's in the Barrow gas field, when oil and gas is leased on government land that lease right goes to the company, they own the resource then to take out and then they share in the royalties with however that's done. Say they get finished, I think I've never had that question asked before Arnold and I don't know the answer to it but why not explore that with industry when that comes up.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: The reason why I asked that is in the Huskies and other charts that are near Atqasuk and for example have so small a oil in the property right now that it's just not worth the companies' while to extract a hundred thousand barrels of oil and I think that if they abandon it you must know at some point when

the industry leaves that and if they do from your office will you recognize that or something, can we have residual rights? Whether we'll ever get it out ourselves we don't know but it's an incentive for college or for us to get technology to get that out to make a beneficial use for Atqasuk. I mean Atqasuk can live with 500 thousand or 100 thousand barrels of oil or gas for, well you can see what I'm getting at.

RITCHIE: I can see what you're driving at and it's an interesting question. We have a small one at the end of the field that they shut that down and plugged the hole and what you're asking is if there's residuals. If, when it gets below the time they can make a profit at it then that be turned over to another entity, say the borough or whomever. But that's what I think your asking and the answer to that question is I don't know at this time and we need to find out.

ARNOLD BROWER, JR.: O.K., then we want to keep it in the plan so this doesn't get lost so that we can talk with whomever the industry will become.

MORKILL: Well, it's 10:00 p.m. and we're soon going to have to head back to Barrow, is there any additional comments that anyone would like to make at this time. Again, we want to emphasize that you can continue to provide comments in writing or through Arnold Brower and Tom Lohman of contact any of us, some of our names and phone numbers are on the newsletter that's available out on the table and you can contact us at anytime, there's also comment sheets in the newsletter and some individual sheets that you can write in your comments and fold it up and mail it to us.

JAMES AIKEN, SR.: I would like to know why the data that was collected by various institutions, including some universities surrounding this area from Umiat to Prudhoe with survey work that was done in the past, there was the testing that was done already and there were some wells that were drilled to determine whether or not anything was contained. BLM should have that information, there's a map with data that was collected back then and that information should be included in the work, in the plan for the Atqasuk area because that information can be integrated.

RITCHIE: We do have that data and it will be part of this whole study, we're trying to update that with these meetings and other information, and so yes, we are aware of that and we'll use that and we appreciate all we've heard tonight and, Mayor, for your inviting us here and we'll come back anytime you want us to and we won't come back if you don't want us to. (laughter)

MAYOR HERMAN: You are always welcome here.

RITCHIE: Thank you very much, I feel that, and for everything we've heard we appreciate that very much to all of you.